

TOWN OF BUCKEYE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 26, 2004

Call to Order

Mayor Hull, who led the pledge of allegiance, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Hull, Vice Mayor Newberry, Councilman Meck, Councilwoman Weir, Councilwoman Charman, Councilman Doster, and Councilman Urwiller.

Staff Present: Joe Blanton, Scott Ruby, Linda Garrison, Christine Dunnington, Mike Carey, Jeanine Guy, Alicia Griffin, and Todd Ellsworth.

Canvass of the Vote

Moved by Vice Mayor Newberry, seconded by Councilwoman Charman to adopt Resolution 23-04 canvassing the vote of the General Election held on May 18, 2004 and read by title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Terms and Conditions of the Town Managers Continued Employment or Termination, including Severance Agreement and Possible Appointment of Interim Town Manager

- Mr. Blanton thanked his family and friends that had supported him during these six and a half years with the Town. He reported that he had served the Town with dignity, honesty and integrity as Town Manager and was proud of his accomplishments. He stated that this had hired a management team that was second to none and stated this reasons for his decision. (See attached sheet) Moved by Vice Mayor Newberry, seconded by Councilwoman Weir to accept Mr. Blanton's resignation and severance package as presented. Vice Mayor Newberry read the severance package for the audience. Councilman Doster questioned the vacation to make sure that it included all accrued vacation to date and asked if there was a contract agreement in place and what were the terms of that agreement. The original contract stated that if the Town Manager resigned he would be given 6 months pay plus accrued vacation and sick. Councilman Meck felt that the severance packaged should include a total of all sick and vacation that has been accrued. Councilman Urwiller asked Mr. Ruby, Town Attorney, to clarify Section 6 of the contract. Councilman Meck stated that the existing contract was entered in good faith and that at the terms of the contract stated 30 days notice of resignation unless all parties agree. He was comfortable to forgive the 30 days notice. He suggested staying with the original termination agreement. Councilwoman Weir stated she did not think we have shown good faith by subjecting the Town Manager to threats etc. At this time the Mayor addressed those who had requested time to address the Council. The following addressed the Council: **John Blanton** stated that Mr. Blanton has not taken vacation, and is never home at night and has always done two or three positions for the town and that the Town has gotten a bargain and that he has been driven out by corruption. **David Eberstein**, resident of Sundance stated that he was a local government consultant and offered his services to the Town. **Phyllis Duran** of the Desert Sun stated that she was proud to know Joe Blanton and that he had done a lot for the Town, he truly loved Buckeye, and had carried the community through some hard times. He has always been professional, hones, ethical and committed. **Emily McCullan**, a concerned citizen, stated that she was sorry to see Mr. Blanton leave but felt he should be paid according to the original contract. **Murel Stephens** stated that Mr. Blanton could be seen working late into the evening. He stated that Mr. Blanton's can in as Town Manager with turmoil and that he was leaving the same way. He stated that Mr. Blanton truly has the heart for the community and that he will be truly missed. **Councilman Doster** stated that the attributes are pale to the reality of what he has done and that money does not compensate for what he has done and wished him his best, but the reality of the situation is that we do not have the budget complete and that most budgets have been a challenge. I do not disagree with what Mr. Blanton asked for but would like the motion amended to read the severance package would be equal to one year (\$85,000) including all sick and accrued vacation, the 2001 Ford Expedition as a gift, and the Town would pad all health, dental, and life insurance for one year. Councilman Newberry agreed to amend the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Weir. Councilman Urwiller stated that he would be voting No and wanted to explain his vote stating that he had asked Mr. Blanton to take vacations and hopes that when it comes time for a

Manager to leave it would be a time for celebration. The motion passed as amended, Mayor Hull, Vice Mayor Newberry, Councilman Meck, Councilwoman Weir, Councilwoman Charman, Councilman Doster voting "Aye", Councilman Urwiller voting "No". The motion passed.

Moved by Vice Mayor Newberry, seconded by Councilwoman Weir to table the appointment of an interim Town Manager until the July 1, 2004 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

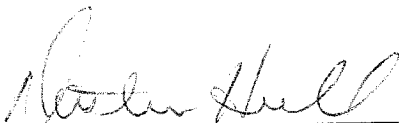
Town's Staff Work Environment

Vice Mayor Newberry stated that he wanted it on record that he does not agree with the intimidation that has been going on by certain elected officials toward Town staff. He apologized to employees that have to work in a hostile work environment.

Councilwoman Weir expressed the same concerns and apologized for what has been happening.

Adjournment

Moved by Vice Mayor Newberry, seconded by Councilman Meck to adjourn (7:49 p.m.). The motion passed unanimously.



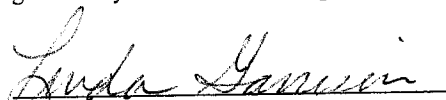
Dustin Hull, Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Garrison, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on the 26th day of May 2004. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.



Linda Garrison, Town Clerk